THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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A C-130 aircraft takes off from an air base in central Japan on Friday to evacuate Japanese nationals from Sudan. The plane flew to Djibouti and is standing by for the evacuation | AP

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EVACUATION OF FOREIGNERS FROM WAR-HIT SUDAN BEGINS

At least 50 Saudi citizens were brought to Jeddah on a ship in the first announced evacuation from Sudan on Saturday

OVER 100 MORE TO BE EVACUATED VIA SEA

More than 100 people from 11 countries are expected to arrive in Jeddah over the weekend in four vessels. However, to be evacuated through sea route, one must make it to Port Sudan, some 840 kilometers from Khartoum and movement out of the capital – where much of the fighting is happening — has proven to be intensely dangerous | P30

HOPE FOR INDIANS STRANDED THERE

- With fighting going on in and around most of Sudan's airports, including the one in Khartoum, evacuation by air is a risky venture
- However, Sudan's army said it was coordinating efforts to soon evacuate citizens of the US, UK, China and France, on military aircraft. Some 3,000 Indians are also waiting to be moved out

413

PEOPLE KILLED AND 3,551 INJURED IN FIGHTING ACROSS SUDAN, AS PER W.H.O.

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Security scare ahead of Modi's visit to Kerala

Hoax letter warned of suicide attack on PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kochi/T'puram

A leaked intelligence report on possible security threats during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Kerala on April 24-25, coupled with a letter received at the BJP state headquarters threatening a suicide bomb attack on the PM, on the lines of the Rajiv Gandhi assassination, have sent the state police into a tizzy. Though the letter turned out to be a hoax, the police sounded a high alert.

"We are not taking things lightly. Security arrangements have been beefed up. More than 2,000 police personnel will be on security duty. Besides, ADGP intelligence and state police chief Anil Kant have reviewed the arrangements," said Kochi Commissioner K Sethu Raman.

The police intelligence report said the presence of Muslim fundamentalists and Maoists among the migrant labourers poses a serious security risk.

The letter received at the BJP office a week ago was written in Malayalam and issued in the name of N J Johny, a resident of Kaloor, Kochi.

His name is mentioned as Joseph John in the letter, which also contained his contact number. The police verified Johny's handwriting and found no match. After Johny suspected the role of a church committee member who nursed a grudge against him, police questioned the latter.

The leaked intelligence report by ADGP T K Vinodkumar cautioned about the Popular Front of India, which was banned recently, posing a threat to the Prime Minister considering the strong presence of the outfit in the state. The report also mentions the potential threat from other Muslim fundamentalist organisations like People's Democratic Party.

It further highlights the presence of Maoist cadre in Kerala and the possibility of retaliation against actions taken by the Centre to decimate them.

SHEKHAR YADAV

RAHUL HOMELESS

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi (pic) handing over the keys of his 12, Tughlak Lane bungalow to a CPWD official after vacating the bungalow following his disqualification as a Lok Sabha MP, in New Delhi on Saturday

"I will stay with the former Congress president (Sonia Gandhi) at 10, Janpath for some time and then find some other way," he said

> I have paid the price for speaking the truth, I am ready to pay any price... I have no problem even if it has been snatched away from me. This house was given to me by the people of India - Rahul Gandhi

THIS BASAVA JAYANTI, BJP, CONG SET TO WOO LINGAYATS

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

WITH the scrutiny of nomination papers ending, major political parties are set to launch their campaign blitzkrieg for the Assembly polls in the state. To start with, the BJP and Congress are set to make Basava Jayanti on Sunday a special event this time to woo the dominant Veerashaiva-Lingayat community in their favour.

CM Basavaraj Bommai will garland the statue of Basaveshwara in the city before launching BJP's roadshow at Yelahanka. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is on a two-day visit to Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Belagavi, Gadag and Haveri districts, considered a Lingayat heartland. He will take part in the Basava Jayanti celebrations at Kudalasangama.

His visit will be a morale booster to a section of the community and its leaders, including former CM Jagadish Shettar and former DCM Laxman Savadi, who have joined Congress, according to political pundits.

It is an attempt to woo the community which has drifted away from the Congress after the "disgraceful" removal of Veerendra Patil as CM in 1990 by the then PM Rajiv Gandhi, they said. After the Kudalasangama event, Rahul will take part in a roadshow at Vijayapura.

On Monday, he will interact with sugarcane farmers at Ramdurg. He will participate in "Yuva Samvad" in Gadag before taking part in a rally in Hangal.

The CM will address rallies in Yelahanka, Doddaballapura, Nelamangala, Tumakuru, Gubbi, Chikkanayakanahalli, Tiptur, Arasikere, Kadur and Davanagere.

Biden to visit India in Sept for G20 meet

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

US President **Joe Biden** will travel to India for G20 Summit in September, US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Donald Lu said on Saturday.

"This is gonna be a big year for India-US relationship. India is hosting the G20 and the US is hosting APEC, Japan the G7. We have lots of Quad members who are taking on leadership roles and it provides us opportunities to bring our countries closer," Lu said speaking with PTI in Washington DC.

India's leadership in G20 broadens its capacity to stand as a force of good in the world, he added.

"I know our President is looking forward to traveling to India in September. That will be his first trip to India as part of the G-20 Leaders Summit," Lu said.

In March, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken had travelled to India for the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting, while Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo participated in the India-US Forum in New Delhi.

IN ORBIT

In ISRO's POEM-2, 4th stage is orbital platform

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

THE Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Saturday for the first time used the fourth stage of its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle as an orbital platform with deployed solar panels to carry out experiments using seven Indian payloads embedded in it.

Normally, the fourth stage of a rocket becomes a part of space debris orbiting the earth, or falls down to earth as junk, after releasing the satellites in their space orbits. But ISRO's experiment, initiated on Saturday after the launch from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, in Andhra Pradesh, at 2.19 pm, is a game-changer: it uses the fourth stage to orbit with the embedded payloads within to allow ground-based space scientists to control the experiments on them through commands from the ground stations. This will happen even as the solar panels on the fourth stage, deployed facing the sun, keep powering it throughout its orbits around the earth.

ISRO's PSLV-C55 lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Station, in Sriharikota on Saturday

Gaganyaan's first full-scale unmanned mission in Feb '24

India's first human space programme, Gaganyaan, will reach a critical phase next February when the launch of an unmanned test rocket by the national space agency is scheduled. P5

This part of the mission is called PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-2 (POEM-2). It was initiated after the PSLV-C55 launcher released two Singaporean satellites — TeLEOS-2, the primary satellite, and Lumelite-4, as a co-passenger — in their respective space orbits as part of a commercial launch by ISRO's commercial arm, New Space India Ltd.

CONTINUED ON: P5

SC throws out Gandhi murder mistrial plea

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court recently dismissed a plea that alleged mistrial in the Mahatma Gandhi assassination case. Terming it as misconceived, a bench of justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Ahsanuddin Amanullah in their order said, "It is the most misconceived petition under Article 32 of the Constitution. The parties cannot walk into the Supreme Court with any pleading or with any prayer they want."

The bench also imposed ₹25,000 cost and directed that the sum be deposited with SC Advocates on Record Welfare Fund within four weeks. The plea filed by the founder of Abhinav Bharat Congress Dr Pankaj K Phadnis had also challenged the provisions of Bombay Public Measures (Delhi Amendment) Act, 1948 on the ground that its application had led to the implication of V D Savarkar in the case.

A trial court in 1948 had pardoned accused Digambar Badge by invoking that Act. Badge turned approver and Savarkar was implicated on Badge's word.

EXPRESS READ

2 get 7 years' rigorous imprisonment in Bengaluru BJP office blast case

BENGALURU: The Special Court has sentenced two persons in the 2013 Bengaluru BJP office blast case to seven years' rigorous imprisonment and ordered them to pay a fine of Rs 50,000. They have been identified as Daniel Prakash (37) and Syed Ali (36), who hail from Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu. P3

Stolen kits of DC players found, two held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Cubbon Park police arrested two persons and recovered bats and other gear of Delhi Capitals (DC) team stolen in the city last Saturday.

The police conducted a swift operation after a complaint was filed on Friday.

Meanwhile, Delhi Capitals captain David Warner, in his social media post, confirmed that the stolen bats and other gear have been recovered. "They found the culprits. Few are missing still, but thank you," he said.

Twelve bats, 18 balls, four pairs of gloves, three pairs of pads, two thigh guards, two helmets and a backpack worth Rs 16 lakh have been recovered.

The players found their bats and other gear missing from the kitbags once they arrived in Delhi from Bengaluru after their match against Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) on Saturday. The accused have been identified as M Cheluvaraju alias Nataraj, 30, of Kengeri and B Sudanshu Kumar Naik, 30, of Sampangiramanagar in the city. Cheluvaraju hails from Mysuru, while Naik is from Odisha.

DCP (Central) R Srinivas Gowda told this newspaper that the duo had stolen the bats and other gear while transporting them from the hotel, where the players stayed, to the airport. The accused were planning to sell them. The stolen cricket bats belong to David Warner, Mitchell Marsh, Phil Salt and Yash Dhull.

The cricket kits that were recovered by the police | EXPRESS

Anand Agarwal, managing director of Express Freight System India, filed a complaint with the Cubbon Park police on Friday. In his complaint, Agarwal stated that of the 64 kitbags that were transported to the Kempegowda International Airport from a hotel on Vittal Mallya Road, a few were missing.

Driver, courier boy accused

The police took the driver of the vehicle, Cheluvaraju, and Naik, a courier boy, into custody and later recovered the stolen goods from them.

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